Case 3:11-cv-00624-JAG Document 76-11 Filed 12/14/12 Page 1 of 18 PageID# 1534

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERT GORMAN,

Plaintiff,

VS.

* Case No. 07 CV 1846

EXPERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, * INC., EQUIFAX INFORMATION SERVICES, INC., and HSBC MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.,

Defendants.

ORAL DEPOSITION OF KIMBERLY HUGHES JANUARY 25, 2008 CONFIDENTIAL

On the 25th day of January, 2008, at ^ 11:00 a.m., the oral deposition of the above-named witness was taken at the instance of the Plaintiff, Robert Gorman, before Sandi L. Voigt, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, at the offices of Jones Day, located at 2727 North Harwood, in the City of Dallas, County of Dallas, State of Texas, pursuant to Notice and the agreements hereinafter set forth.

- to have reviewed the documents first. 1
- 2 (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. Were these documents
- forwarded to HSBC? 3
- 4 Α. No.
- 5 0. Okay. Were any documents forwarded to HSBC
- 6 in this case?
- 7 The -- we transmitted the contents of the Α.
- ACDV form which indicated a description of the 8
- documents that we had received.
- 10 Okay. So is that a no? Q.
- MR. GIBBS: Objection. 11
- No, sir. That was my answer to your 12 Α.
- question. There was -- there was a document 13
- 14 transmitted electronically which was the ACDV form
- which contained a description of the document. 15
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. Other than the ACDV 16 0.
- form, was there anything transmitted to HSBC in this 17
- 18 case?
- MR. GIBBS: Objection, asked and 19
- 20 answered.
- 21 Α. No, sir.
- 22 (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. So Mr. Gorman's 0.
- letter, which would be page 2 of Exhibit 7, was never 23
- 24 forwarded to HSBC; is that correct?
- 25 MR. GIBBS: Objection, asked and

- answered. 1
- No, sir, it was not. 2 Α.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Why don't we go to the ACDV 3 0.
- which you're referring to which we've had marked as 4
- 5 Plaintiff's Exhibit 31. And that would be probably the
- third page of that that you're referring to, is that 6
- right, Ms. Hughes? 7
- Yes, if we're -- if we're looking at the one 8
- 9 that is involving the letter that we just discussed.
- And there's a -- up top, there is a box of 10
- the Dispute Reason. Do you see that? 11
- 12 Α. Yes.
- Okay. And after that, there's a number. Ιt 13 0.
- says 106? 14
- 15 Α. Yes.
- And after that, it says, Disputes 16
- 17 Present/Previous Account Status, History. Verify
- 18 Accordingly.
- 19 Α. Yes.
- Okay. What does the 106 refer to? 20
- It's the number for that dispute code in the 21 Α.
- 22 E-OSCAR system.
- 23 Okay. What's the E-OSCAR system? Q.
- 24 The web base system that Experian uses along
- with other reporting agencies and the creditors to 25

- transmit these dispute verification forms. 1
- 2 Okay. And you said -- you indicated there
- are certain codes that are used within that process? 3
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 5 Α. Yes.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And what do those 6 0.
- 7 codes stand for?
- 8 Α. The code translates to the text that you read
- into the record. 9
- Okay. So there are various codes that the 10
- customer service rep can choose from when conveying a 11
- 12 dispute?
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Okay. And it is, in fact, the policy of
- Experian that Experian never forwards documents other 15
- than an ACDV to a furnisher of information as part of 16
- 17 its reinvestigation process; is that correct?
- 18 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form,
- mischaracterizes prior testimony. 19
- Experian does not transmit actual documents. 20
- It does convey the contents of those documents or a 21
- description of those documents in the verification 22
- 23 form.
- 24 (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. So it will describe
- the documents, but it won't actually send the documents 25

- 1 Zarlock.
- 2 MR. GIBBS: -- prior testimony.
- 3 MR. OLSON: Form. Olson.
- Well, in the history grid to Experian, there 4 Α.
- 5 was a 90 day late being reported in May of 2002, so
- 6 there was a previous 90 day delinquency reported to
- 7 Experian.
- 8 0. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But they also -- at
- that time, Experian -- HSBC also reported to Experian 9
- 10 that Mr. Gorman had been 180 days late on this account,
- 11 right?
- 12 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form. 13
- 14 Zarlock.
- It did carry history through September of '02 15 Α.
- 16 which did have a 180 day delinquency.
- 17 (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And then here it Ο.
- 18 appears that HSBC is telling Equifax that the worst
- 19 Mr. Gorman ever was was 90 days late, correct?
- 20 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 21 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form.
- 22 Zarlock.
- 23 At this time, yes, that's what's being -- it Α.
- 24 looks like is being conveyed.
- (BY MR. MALLON) So you would agree that 25 Q.

- that's a discrepancy, right? 1
- 2 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 3 MR. OLSON: Objection, form.
- Α. Again, I can't say. I can't say if it was 4
- 5 wrong the first time or if HSBC made some sort of
- decision to stop reporting certain information. You 6
- would have to ask them that question. 7
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But my only question 8 Ο.
- is, you'd agree that they're different -- the 9
- 10 information is different?
- 11 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form --
- MR. OLSON: Objection to form. 12
- MR. GIBBS: -- asked and answered. 13
- 14 Α. Yes. The reportings to Experian contained
- 15 additional late payments then as reported here.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And what, if 16 Ο.
- 17 anything, did Experian do in response to receipt of
- this information? 18
- 19 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 20 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
- The transaction detail on this indicates that 21 Α.
- 22 Experian did not make any updates based on this because
- 23 our system is telling us that we had just received
- 24 direct contact back from the same creditor in response
- 25 to our own ACDV. We received the response on

- 1 September 12th. So seven days earlier, we had received
- 2 direct contact from them. And if it's within the same
- 3 reporting period, we take our direct contact over a
- 4 carbon copy because we don't necessarily have the same
- 5 internal status codes as the other bureaus.
- 6 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But a 3 is a -- a 3
- 7 is 90 days no matter who it's being reported to,
- 8 correct?
- 9 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form --
- 10 MR. OLSON: Objection to the form.
- MR. GIBBS: -- asked and answered.
- 12 A. That's correct, but they may be cutting their
- 13 history off on a certain date. We wouldn't be aware.
- 14 And again, seven days earlier we had received a direct
- 15 response from the creditor, and we take our direct
- 16 contact with them over a carbon copy from another
- 17 bureau during the same period.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) So you'll -- basically
- 19 you'll go with what they're telling Experian as opposed
- 20 to what they've told Equifax seven days later?
- 21 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form,
- 23 mischaracterizes her testimony.
- 24 A. If it --
- MR. OLSON: Objection to form. Olson.

- If it happens that close to our direct 1 Α.
- 2 contact, yes. If it happens outside of 30 days within
- our direct contact, if we're able to decipher the 3
- 4 updates, we'll take them.
- 5 0. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. So 30 days is
- 6 basically the cutoff?
- 7 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 8 Α. Yes.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And then you said 0.
- 10 again, able to decipher -- able to decipher this
- 11 information. Is that the term you used?
- Yes. There may be codes that the other 12 Α.
- bureau uses that we don't have. So if we don't have 13
- 14 their codes, we can't cross up the information. But if
- 15 we're able to make updates based on the response, we'll
- 16 do so.
- 17 Okay. And who were you getting this
- 18 information from? Is it from Equifax? Is it from HSBC
- 19 or is it from E-OSCAR?
- 20 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form, asked and
- answered. 21
- Well, technically, it's from both because the 22
- 23 sum of this form contains information from Equifax and
- 24 from HSBC. It does come through E-OSCAR, but I can't
- 25 answer for you the technicalities of whose response

- 1 actually triggers the notification.
- Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But the information
- 3 comes directly from E-OSCAR to Experian, correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. The information did not in this case
- 6 come from HSBC, correct?
- 7 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form.
- 8 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 9 A. Technically, I can't answer that question. I
- 10 don't know. I mean, it's -- there's information
- 11 transpiring from -- from Household through E-OSCAR, so
- 12 if technically that means it came from them, you know,
- 13 I don't --
- Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But --
- 15 A. I'm not -- I'm not a systems technical
- 16 person. I just know that the carbon copies result from
- 17 that contact and it's sent to us through E-OSCAR.
- 18 Q. Okay. So you don't get anything directly
- 19 from HSBC. It's just through E-OSCAR?
- 20 MR. GIBBS: Objection to the form --
- 21 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
- 22 MR. GIBBS: -- asked and answered.
- A. We're being carbon copied, so to me, that is
- 24 not direct contact.
- Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay.

- 1 A. It's a carbon copy.
- Q. And, in fact, before you indicated that you
- 3 were going to -- Experian's policy was to rely upon its
- 4 direct contact with the furnisher if it's within 30
- 5 days, correct?
- 6 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) So obviously Experian makes
- 9 the distinction between a direct contact from HSBC as
- 10 indicated in the ACDV and from this carbon copy it
- 11 received from E-OSCAR, correct?
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- MR. OLSON: Objection, form.
- 14 A. Yes, sir, there is that distinction, but
- whether or not the information in the carbon copy
- 16 technically is generated by them, I can't answer that.
- 17 That's a technical E-OSCAR question.
- 18 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. Yeah. That's --
- 19 that's not what I'm asking you.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. I mean, I think it's pretty clear that this
- 22 information ultimately did come from HSBC. I'm just
- 23 asking you if essentially HSBC ever contacted Experian
- 24 on or after September 19th of 2006 and said, Look,
- 25 here's the information we're updating to Equifax.

- 1 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 2 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form.
- 3 Zarlock.
- 4 A. It would be my position that they did not
- 5 directly notify Experian that a change needed to be
- 6 made.
- 7 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And, in fact, that
- 8 would be a superior method in receiving this
- 9 information from E-OSCAR because the code -- you would
- 10 get Experian's direct code instead of Equifax's,
- 11 correct?
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 13 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form.
- 14 Zarlock.
- 15 MR. OLSON: Objection to form. Olson.
- 16 A. They could -- if they wanted to recontact
- 17 Experian, they could do so through a number of ways.
- 18 They could do so through their monthly tape or they
- 19 could also use a method similar to this through E-OSCAR
- 20 called an AUD or automated universal data form which
- 21 they do send directly to Experian through E-OSCAR.
- 22 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. An AUD you said was
- 23 an automated -- can you help me there?
- 24 A. Automated universal data form.
- 25 Q. Universal data form. What is an AUD?

- 1 A. A universal data form is a means which a
- 2 creditor can communicate with a credit bureau out of
- 3 the ordinary reporting process, so it's not in response
- 4 to an investigation. And if they don't want to wait
- 5 for their monthly tape cycle to update, they can do
- 6 like an instant update. In the olden days, they were
- 7 just universal data forms and they were sent through
- 8 the mail, but now that we have E-OSCAR, it's an
- 9 automated transmission, thus, it's now called an AUD.
- 10 Q. Okay. And the purpose of an AUD then would
- 11 be to update account information to all the credit
- 12 reporting agencies, not just one, correct?
- MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form.
- 14 Zarlock.
- 15 MR. GIBBS: Objection to the form.
- 16 A. Well, my understanding is it's typically --
- 17 AUDs are typically sent to all reporting agencies that
- 18 the company reports to, but I suppose it could just be
- 19 notification to one bureau if they're aware that they
- 20 gave, you know, different information.
- Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. Well, what does the
- 22 term "universal" mean in that description, if you know?
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 24 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
- 25 Zarlock.

- I just know that that's what it's called. Α. 1
- 2 (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. You don't know
- specifically what that term means? 3
- 4 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form, asked and
- 5 answered.
- Α. No, sir.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And in this case, 7 Q.
- just to be clear, HSBC never sent an automated 8
- universal data form to Experian at any point after 9
- 10 September 8th of 2006?
- 11 MR. GIBBS: Objection to the form --
- 12 MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
- 13 MR. GIBBS: -- asked and answered.
- This is the only record of profile 14 Α.
- maintenance that was found for Mr. Gorman and that was 15
- 16 the carbon copy.
- 17 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) So is that a no?
- MR. GIBBS: Objection to form. 18
- MR. OLSON: Objection to form. 19
- Our records don't indicate -- our records 20 Α.
- 21 indicate no.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. That's all I'm 22 Q.
- 23 asking. Let's go back to the transaction log for a
- You said these codes -- like under the payment 24 second.
- history, there's Ds, 3s, 2s and 1s. You've even got a 25

- What this is, there's a box that comes 1 Α. No.
- 2 up on the Internet that prompts the consumer.
- want to type any additional information for us to pass 3
- 4 along to the data furnisher, to type it there, so this
- 5 was what he wanted to convey to HMS.
- 6 Okay. And is there any way here where it
- 7 indicates what the results of that dispute were?
- 8 Α. Yes, sir. The response reason indicates that
- 9 it was a remains, which indicates that the response was
- 10 verified as reported.
- 11 Okay. And then if we go -- actually, there's
- two more pages here, but they don't look like they 12
- 13 contain any more dispute information, do they?
- 14 Α. I'm not sure where you're at. I'm sorry.
- 15 The final two pages of this exhibit. Okay.
- 16 These are disclosure logs, and Α. Okav. No.
- 17 both of these indicate that Mr. Gorman contacted
- 18 Experian on two separate occasions to obtain copies of
- 19 his disclosure.
- 20 Okay. Okay. We're done with that document.
- 21 I want to go back to -- you don't need to look at the
- 22 transaction log, but what we were referring to -- you
- 23 indicated that HS -- I mean, that Experian did not
- 24 update its account information regarding the subject
- 25 account due to its policies. The information it got

- was within 30 days of the direct information it got 1
- 2 from HSBC; is that correct?
- 3 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- That's correct. That's just regarding a Α. 4
- 5 carbon copy.
- (BY MR. MALLON) Right. So if HSBC had 6 Q.
- 7 contacted Experian on or after September 19th and given
- it different information, Experian would have updated 8
- the account accordingly, correct?
- MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to the form. 10
- 11 Zarlock.
- 12 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- Α. That's correct. 13
- (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. And when Experian 14 0.
- received the ACDV from HSBC in this case -- why don't 15
- we actually go back to that document. It should be 16
- Exhibit 31, page 3. Do you have that in front of you, 17
- 18 Ms. Hughes?
- 19 Α. I do.
- Okay. Subscriber response categories on the 20 0.
- left there, do you see that? 21
- 22 Α. Yes.
- 23 That's how it actually then reported the
- 24 account from that point forward, correct?
- MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form. 25

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Page 110
              (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. But the only reasons
 1
          0.
 2
     you would disregard what they're telling you to do is
     in the categories you just described, correct?
 3
 4
                    MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
               That's correct.
 5
          A.
 6
               (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. So Experian
     essentially relies upon HSBC to reinvestigate this
 7
 8
     matter and then report those results, correct?
 9
                    MR. GIBBS: Objection to form --
10
                    MR. ZARLOCK: Objection to form.
                    MR. GIBBS: -- asked and answered.
11
12
         A.
              That's correct.
               (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. It doesn't conduct
13
          0.
     its own reinvestigation into this dispute?
14
15
                   MR. GIBBS: Objection to form,
16
    mischaracterizes what she said.
17
              Well, we do go to the reporting source which
         A.
18
     is the company who has the relationship with the
19
     subscriber, but independent of that and reviewing any
20
     information sent in by the consumer themselves, we
21
     don't do any other independent investigation.
22
         Q.
               (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. So you rely upon the
     furnisher to do the investigation?
23
24
                    MR. GIBBS: Objection to form,
25
    mischaracterizes what she just said.
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- **A**. We do contact the data furnisher or the 1
- 2 reporting source for the investigation, yes.
- 3 Q. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. That's fine.
- MR. MALLON: Let's -- give me one --4
- 5 literally one minute here. Let's go off the record.
- 6 (Off the record.)
- 7 (BY MR. MALLON) Ms. Hughes, do the customer Q.
- 8 service representatives who conduct disputes have a
- 9 certain amount of disputes that they are expected to
- 10 complete on a daily basis?
- 11 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 12 No, sir, they don't. Α.
- 13 (BY MR. MALLON) There are no targets or 0.
- 14 goals for them?
- 15 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 16 They do have goals in their job performance,
- 17 but it has nothing to do with the amount of disputes
- that they perform. 18
- 19 0. (BY MR. MALLON) Okay. What are the goals in
- 20 their job performance, then?
- 21 MR. GIBBS: Objection to form.
- 22 Α. Well, I certainly can't testify to every
- little thing. You know, showing up to work on time, 23
- 24 being a good team member. The main thing that our
- 25 agents are graded on or judged on, if you will, is